



Food and Farming Group

International Animal Health Division

International Animal Disease Monitoring

Preliminary Outbreak Assessment



Ref: VITT 1200/HPAI-Czech Republic

Date: 21 June 2007

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (H5N1) in the Czech Republic

Note: Defra's International Animal Health Division (IAHD) monitors outbreaks of high impact diseases around the world. Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) is among those diseases of major concern.

Disease Report

The Czech Republic has reported a case of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza, virus type H5N1 in a commercial turkey flock in the Pardubický Region. (see map). Disease control

zones have been established and culling of the flock is underway. Laboratory investigations are also underway to confirm the strain of the virus.



The Czech authorities informed that there is one farm with 17,000 chickens in the 3km zone and 9 commercial holdings totalling around 350,000 poultry, mainly broilers and turkeys in the 10 km zone (European Commission, 2007)

Situation Assessment

The Czech Republic reported cases of H5N1 in wild birds (swans) in early 2006. There were no reports of H5N1 in commercial or non-commercial poultry.

The TRACES electronic database indicates that there have been no imports of live poultry to the UK for the past three months. There has been one import of parrot-like birds by a private individual in April and heron-like birds to a zoo in May. There has been one import of hatching eggs to a research centre in April.

TRACES electronic database does record the movement of live poultry and poultry hatching eggs because they require veterinary certification under EU rules. In general, data in TRACES is dependant on accurate entry at the point of origin. However, TRACES does not record poultry meat and other poultry products intended for human consumption because these do not require official veterinary certification under EU rules.

The two reported outbreaks of H5N1 in commercial poultry in the EU (i.e. Hungary and the UK) in early 2007 appeared to be linked (see full epidemiological report at: http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/diseases/notifiable/disease/ai/pdf/epid_findings050407.pdf)

(<http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/diseases/monitoring/pdf/hpai-developments110507.pdf>)



likelihood that the virus may be introduced from the affected areas to the UK.

Conclusion

the virus from the Czech Republic via legal importation of live poultry is considered negligible because no such imports have taken place. It is unlikely that the relatively recent imports of zoo birds, parrot-like birds or hatching poultry eggs may have resulted in the introduction of the virus to the UK.

determined because the TRACES electronic database does not record such movement. This is being investigated.

Should H5N1 virus, or any other type of H5 or H7 HPAI, be detected in wild birds in the affected area, it is unlikely that it may be introduced to the UK by direct movements at this time of the year. However, this risk will be reviewed should the virus be detected in wild birds in other areas within the major migratory flyway that may involve direct movements to the UK.

References

700. D1 BVG (07) D/411444. 21 June 2007.